

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF JOHNSON)	
COUNTY GAS COMPANY, INC. AND BUD RIFE,)	CASE NO.
INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AN OFFICER OF)	2019-00056
JOHNSON COUNTY GAS COMPANY, INC.)	
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF KRS 278.300, A)	
COMMISSION ORDER, AND A TARIFF)	

ORDER

On May 15, 2019, Johnson County Gas Company, Inc. (Johnson County), and Bud Rife (Mr. Rife) filed a joint motion requesting an extension of time to respond to post-hearing requests for information that were due on May 17, 2019. Johnson County and Mr. Rife requested a six-day extension until May 23, 2019, to respond to Commission Staff's (Staff) Post-Hearing Request for Information and the Attorney General's Post-Hearing Request (jointly, Post-Hearing Requests). As a basis for the motion, Johnson County and Mr. Rife state that, "the person necessary to assist in fully answering the data requests has been unavailable and out of state." Johnson County and Mr. Rife further state that their counsel returned from overseas travel on May 13, 2019, and faced other imminent deadlines.

This is Johnson County and Mr. Rife's third request for an extension of time to respond to requests for information. They previously requested two extensions of time to respond to the initial data requests from Staff and the Attorney General. In an Order entered April 1, 2019, the Commission found that Johnson County and Mr. Rife failed to establish good cause and that the motion should be denied, but found that an extension

should be granted only because Johnson County and Mr. Rife had already missed the date granted under the first extension. The Commission cautioned Johnson County and Mr. Rife that no further extensions would be granted.

Based upon the motion and case record, the Commission finds that Johnson County and Mr. Rife failed to establish good cause to grant an extension to respond to Post-Hearing Requests. Counsel for Mr. Rife was given the opportunity to determine the date to file the response and agreed to May 17, 2019.¹ Further, Johnson County and Mr. Rife gave no indication that the travel was unplanned. Johnson County and Mr. Rife were fully cognizant of the impending deadline and failed to act accordingly. However, given the proximity between filing the motion in the late afternoon of May 15, 2019, and the May 17, 2019 deadline for filing the responses, the Commission will grant the motion and permit Johnson County and Mr. Rife an extension until May 23, 2019, to file their responses to Post-Hearing Requests.

The Commission also finds that no further extensions of time should be granted for any future filings in this proceeding. Johnson County and Mr. Rife's continuing disregard for the timely processing of this proceeding indicates a willful failure to comply with Commission orders. All future filings made by Johnson County and Mr. Rife in this proceeding must be timely filed, or a show cause proceeding may be initiated to determine whether there are any reasons why penalties should not be imposed upon Johnson County and Mr. Rife, pursuant to KRS 278.990, for their failure to comply with Commission orders.

¹ See April 24, 2019 Hearing Video Transcript at 12:45:01. "How much time will you and your client need Mr. Childers to respond?" "What about May 17th?"

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The motion of Johnson County and Bud Rife for an extension of time until May 23, 2019, to file responses to Post-Hearing Requests is granted.
2. Johnson County and Mr. Rife shall file responses to Post-Hearing Requests no later than May 23, 2019.
3. No further extensions of time to file any filings in this proceeding shall be granted.

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By the Commission

ENTERED
MAY 20 2019
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


Executive Director

Case No. 2019-00056

*Bud Rife
Manager
Johnson County Gas Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 447
Betsy Layne, KY 41605

*Larry Cook
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Johnson County Gas Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 447
Betsy Layne, KY 41605

*Rebecca W Goodman
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Bud Rife
Johnson County Gas Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 447
Betsy Layne, KY 41605

*Joe F Childers
Joe F. Childers & Associates
300 Lexington Building
201 West Short Street
Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*Bud Rife
Johnson County Gas Company, Inc.
P. O. Box 447
Betsy Layne, KY 41605

*Justin M. McNeil
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Kent Chandler
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate
700 Capitol Avenue
Suite 20
Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204